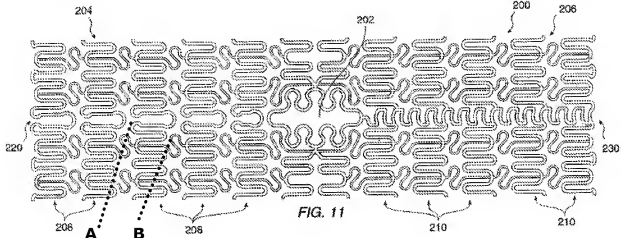


Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated **July 9, 2007**. The Office Action rejected claims 12-14 and 19-24 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/36002 (hereinafter Vardi). Specifically the Office Action cited FIG. 11 of Vardi as the source of the disclosure. As the following explanation will show, Vardi's FIG. 11 does not disclose every limitation recited in claims 12-14 and 19-24.

Vardi's FIG. 11 does not disclose bent peak portions that wrap around adjacent peak portions and which circumferentially overlaps with a position longitudinally displaced from and distal to the peak portion adjacent to the bent peak portion. The following marked up copy of Vardi's FIG. 11 includes references to items A and B. Because the Office action does not explicitly state which portions of Vardi is alleged to be the bent peak portion, Applicant will demonstrate that both item A and item B do not disclose the claimed peak portions.



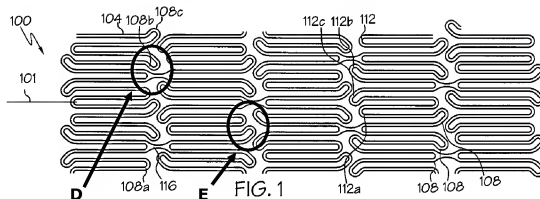
Item A: Claims 12-14 and 19-24 recite a bent peak portion which wraps at least partially about an adjacent peak portion. Item A is circumferentially displaced from both adjacent elements and does not bend about an adjacent peak portion. Item A also does not circumferentially overlap with a position longitudinally displaced from and distal to the peak portion adjacent to the bent peak portion.

Item B: Item B is not part of a serpentine band which alternates between a peak and a trough but rather connects two serpentine ring structures to each other. Because it is not a serpentine ring structure it does not have peaks at all and also does not alternate between peaks

and troughs. Without peaks, item B cannot disclose bent peaks of any kind.

The distinction between Vardi and the claimed bent peaks wrapped around adjacent peak portions can be understood by comparing the above illustration with Applicant's disclosure. Applicant describes that the bent peak portion wrapped about an adjacent trough portion is illustrated in FIG. 1 (Specification, Page 6 lines 26-27). FIG. 1 also illustrates that the bent peak portion circumferentially overlaps with a position longitudinally displaced from and distal to the peak portion adjacent to the bent peak portion.

As can be seen below in the circled portions labeled area D and area E, the bent peak portions longitudinally overlap with adjacent non-bent peak portions. (Note the reference numbers in FIG. 1 have been modified to make the figure better fit the page). Vardi's bent peaks do not similarly longitudinally overlap. No new matter has been added as all of the claimed limitations are disclosed in FIG. 1 and in Page 6 lines 26-27 of Applicant's Specification.



Conclusion

Based on the previous remarks, Applicant respectfully submits this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-14 and 19-24 (in addition to already allowed claims 1-6, 9-11, and 15-18) are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS



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